

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

SENATE BILL NO. 2340
(Senators Kessel, Bekkedahl, Hogue, Patten)
(Representative Porter)

AN ACT to provide for a legislative management study to evaluate the evolving fire service operational and response needs of the state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - FIRE SERVICE REGIONAL RESPONSE MODEL.

1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the evolving fire service operational and response needs of the state. The study must include an examination of the:
 - a. Coordination of efforts of existing state resources for improved fire emergency service organization, distribution, mobilization, training, and oversight.
 - b. Creation of fire service regional response teams.
 - c. Establishment of authority for response, standardized training, wildland-urban interface fire prevention codes, emergency response operational initiatives and responsibilities.
 - d. Evaluation of existing staffing abilities to cross-train, provide further services, provide backfill during extended or complex emergencies, minimum training requirements, staff firefighting authorities, firefighting benefits, necessary equipment, and structural needs.
 - e. Identification and implementation of a restructure of fiscal support for state and local fire service in North Dakota, reducing the dependency on local property tax.
 - f. A review of changes necessary to state laws and administrative rules to implement a unified model.
2. The study must include consultation with state fire marshal, the North Dakota firefighter's association, the North Dakota forest service, the department of emergency services, the North Dakota fire chief's association, the department of career and technical education, and other stakeholders. The legislative management may contract with a consultant to carry out this study. The legislative management shall report the findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2340.

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 90 Nays 1 Absent 3

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2025,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State